



Mrs J Nolan
Clerk to the Council

The Parish Council Community Centre
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**Minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on
Monday 23rd February 2026 @ 6PM**

Attendance

Cllr John Bell – Chair
Cllr Suzy Sherratt
Cllr Sarah Balfour
Cllr Sharon Maiden
Cllr Nathan Bland
Cllr Martin Roberts

Clerk J Nolan

3 Members of the public in attendance
5 Allotment Association Members in attendance

<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>1.1 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting 1.2 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence</p>
<p>1.1 / 1.2 NONE to receive, consider or approve.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations</p> <p>2.1 To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council’s Code of conduct or a member’s Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on items on the agenda 2.2 To receive, consider and decide upon any written applications for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest 2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate</p>
<p>2.1/2.2/2.3 NONE to RECEIVE.</p>
<p>3. To note the minutes for the Village Amenities Committee meeting held on 24th November 2025.</p>
<p>3.1 The minutes had previously been circulated. The committee NOTED the meeting minutes.</p>
<p>4. Allotments</p> <p>4.1 To receive any updates from Brackenhill Allotment Association. 4.2 To receive a request from Brackenhill Allotment Association relating to the repainting of the members cabin from green to grey and consider for recommendation. 4.3 To receive an update on the waiting list and new lets. 4.4 To receive a report following the monthly plot inspections and number of letters.</p>

4.1 Update provided that the following association members had decided the time had come to step down from their formal roles;

Beverley Richmond
Steve Clifton
Neil Richmond
Phil Palmer
Angie Elliott

Kenny McCluskey confirmed he would remain in role and shared that Alistair Gairns would be taking up a role alongside others who had not yet been confirmed. Parish Council would be updated via the Clerk as soon as roles confirmed.

Thanks were shared from the association to the Parish Council for their support over the years and thanks were reciprocated to the association members for their service.

Steve Clifton advised that after being successful in District Councillor capital grant funding for a new shed, Wakefield Council had requested planning permission even though the structure was not permit and that the application had been rejected. Steve advised he would raise this to District Councillors for support and see this task through to conclusion.

4.2 It was **RECOMMENDED** that the allotment association are granted permission to paint the cabin either a shade of green or grey.

4.3 It was **NOTED** that there were 6 new lets and 5 vacant plots, to which offers had been sent. There are 4 residents and 9 non-residents on the waiting list.

4.4 It was reported that following the inspections on 21st January 2026, all tenants had been reminded of their allotment responsibilities captured as per the tenant renewal letter process. Report **RECEIVED**.

5. Community Centres & Public Open Space

Bell Lane Community Centre

5.1 To note the addition of a nappy bin to the current washroom contract for Bell Lane at a cost of £11.44 per month due to complaints regarding smell and hygiene.

Low Ackworth Play Area

5.2 To review an area of concern relating to continuing bird excrement build up on the slide in Low Ackworth Play Area.

Ackworth Quarries Community Centre

5.3 To receive a copy of the independent Health & Safety Workplace Risk Assessment report and make further recommendation to Council.

5.4 To receive a copy of the independent Fire Risk Assessment report and make further recommendation to Council.

5.5 To note that the Parish Assembly on Wednesday 15th April 2026 will be held at the Ackworth Quarries Community Centre.

5.6 To note that the centre will be used as a Polling Station by Wakefield District Council on Thursday 7th May 2026.

5.1 The addition of the nappy bin at Bell Lane Community Centre was **NOTED**.

5.2 It was **RECOMMENDED** that S&D Landscape are **APPROVED** to remove ash tree enabling the pigeons to excrement on the play area slide at a cost of £695+vat and that a new tree is to be planted.

5.3 The Health & Safety Workplace Risk Assessment report and remedial action plan was **RECEIVED**. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Clerk is delegated to resolve listed matters through to resolution.

5.4 The Fire Risk Assessment report and remedial action plan was **RECEIVED**. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Clerk is delegated to resolve listed matters through to resolution and to escalate to Strata accordingly.

5.5 It was **NOTED** that the intention would be to hold the Parish Assembly at the new community centre, completion of remedial action dependent.

5.6 It was **NOTED** that the intention would be for the new community centre to be used as a polling station by Wakefield District Council, completion of remedial action dependent.

<p>6. To receive correspondence from residents and make recommendation to Council (relating to amenities)</p> <p>6.1 To review correspondence relating to the rear car park light and make recommendation to Council. 6.2 To review correspondence relating to a request for mobile sports floodlights and make recommendation to Council. 6.3 To review correspondence relating to parking on match days at Carr Bridge and make recommendation to Council.</p>
<p>6.1 The clerk presented a quotation from Acorn Electrical to either move the existing light or replace. It was RECOMMENDED that replacement at a cost of £262 + vat was APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE, pending further quotes to be brought back to this committee for car park lights including solar options as opposed to the current lighting option.</p> <p>6.2 An at length discussion took place. It was RECOMMENDED that a meeting is called with all village sports group organisers to discuss sports availability across Ackworth and possible join funding opportunities to improve current facilities in Ackworth.</p> <p>6.3 It was RECOMMENDED to incorporate the issues around sports day parking within the meeting to be requested under agenda item 6.2</p>
<p>7. To consider for recommendation, loan of the Parish Council gazebos to Low Ackworth Community Centre Association if requested for their annual Fun Day Event.</p>
<p>7.2 It was RECOMMENDED to APPROVE the loan of the gazebo if requested.</p>
<p>8. TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THAT THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED ON THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETING ACT 1960)</p>
<p>8.1 It was AGREED to move to the private section of the meeting.</p>
<p>9. To receive quotations and correspondence relating to the 2026 village hanging baskets provision and to make recommendation to Council.</p>
<p>9.1 Confidential correspondence from the current supplier had been RECEIVED.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that White Rose Garden Centre are APPROVED as the 2026 supplier and instructed to install and maintain as many hanging baskets as possible that the 26/27 budget would allow with the inclusion of the required WMDC load testing cost per lamp-post.</p>
<p>10. To receive a purchase report for Ackworth Quarries Community Centre including quotations and make recommendation to Council.</p>
<p>10.1 Due to meeting time constraints. The Chair requested an extra ordinary Village Amenities meeting to be called to discuss in more detail this agenda item relating to the new Ackworth Quarries Community Centre.</p>
<p>11. To review and discuss our current team resource to open the new Ackworth Quarries Community Centre in 2026 and make recommendation to Council.</p>
<p>11.1 Due to meeting time constraints. The Chair requested an extra ordinary Village Amenities meeting to be called to discuss in more detail this agenda item relating to the new Ackworth Quarries Community Centre.</p>

Time Closed: 19:20